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INFLUENZA—PREVALENCE IN THE UNITED STATES.

Mortality from influenza and pneumonia (all forms) during the week ended February 7, 1920, showed a material increase over that for the preceding week, in forty-odd large cities of the United States, considering the group of cities as a whole. A comparison of the excess mortality rate over the seasonal "normal" for the past three or four weeks with that for the first three weeks of the 1918 epidemic in the cities included in the Weekly Health Index of the Bureau of the Census indicates that, upon the basis of the 1918 epidemic, the peak in mortality of this wave of the 1920 epidemic had not been reached in these cities as a whole, but that it may be expected in the week ending February 14 or the following week. A comparison of the present epidemic with that in 1918 is presented in the following table:

Comparison of the excess¹ annual mortality rate per 100,000 from influenza and pneumonia (all forms) by weeks during the 1920 epidemic with that for corresponding weeks in the 1918 epidemic in cities included in the Weekly Health Index of the Bureau of the Census, considered as a whole.

Week ended—		Excess over corre- sponding week of median year.	Week ended—		Excess over corre- sponding week of median year.
1918-1919			1920		
Sept. 7	.....		Jan. 3	.....	-56
14	.....	-6	10	.....	-55
21	.....	76	17	.....	-27
28	.....	326	24	.....	184
Oct. 5	.....	1,028	31	.....	746
12	.....	2,557	Feb. 7	.....	1,234
19	.....	4,592			
26	.....	4,695			
Nov. 2	.....	3,332			
9	.....	1,832			
16	.....	989			
23	.....	647			
30	.....	526			
Dec. 7	.....	617			
14	.....	792			
21	.....	801			
28	.....	629			
Jan. 4	.....	529			
11	.....	551			
18	.....	625			

¹ Excess over the mortality rate from the same causes in the corresponding week of the median year in the period 1910-1916. The weekly rates for the median year for each month were plotted (thus affording a rough "normal" seasonal curve) for each city and then by reading from the curve the indicated median rate at the midpoint for each week. The excess has been found by subtracting this median rate from the actual rate for the corresponding weeks in 1918 and 1920.

At the present stage of the 1920 epidemic the excess mortality rate for the cities included in the Weekly Health Index is only about 50 per cent of what it was in the corresponding stage of the 1918 epidemic, indicating that this epidemic is much less severe than the epidemic of 1918. In other respects the course of this epidemic is strikingly similar to that of the previous one.

In all except a few of the cities for which data are given in the Weekly Health Index the death rate from influenza and pneumonia (all forms) increased during the week ended February 7. In Chicago, Milwaukee, and Washington, the three cities which showed the earliest manifestations of the epidemic, a slight decline occurred, indicating that in these cities this wave of the epidemic rate has passed its peak of mortality. A comparison of the peak rates in these three cities in 1918 and 1920 affords additional encouragement. It is given below:

Excess mortality¹ from influenza and pneumonia (all forms) in peak week of 1920 epidemic compared with that of 1918 epidemic in Chicago, Milwaukee, and Washington.

City.	Annual rate per 100,000.		Per cent which 1920 rate is of 1918 rate.
	1918	1920	
Chicago.....	4,620	1,886	41
Milwaukee.....	1,915	1,434	75
Washington.....	7,989	2,072	26

¹ Excess over the mortality rate from same causes in the corresponding week of the median year in the period 1910-1916. The weekly rates for the median year have been approximated by plotting the rate for the median year for each month (thus affording a rough "normal" seasonal curve) for each city and then by reading from the curve the indicated median rate at the midpoint for each week. The excess has been found by subtracting this median rate from the actual rate for the corresponding week in 1918 and 1920.

The cities showing the highest mortality rate during the week ended February 7 were Kansas City, Mo., Syracuse, N. Y., St. Louis, Washington, New York, Chicago, and Dayton. While practically all cities included in the Health Index show an increase in mortality rates since January 1, 1920, no indication of an epidemic condition is afforded in the death rate for influenza and pneumonia for Fall River, Worcester, Los Angeles, and Nashville.

The following table summarizes for States the morbidity reports as furnished to the Public Health Service by State health departments.

TABLE 1.—*Influenza case reports. Number of cases of influenza occurring in various States as reported to the Public Health Service by State health departments.*

[States omitted are those from which no reports have been received. Blank spaces indicate that no report was received for the week.]

State.	Average per week in December, 1919.	Cases reported week ended—					
		Jan. 3.	Jan. 10.	Jan. 17.	Jan. 24.	Jan. 31.	Feb. 7.
Alabama.....	5				8	203	1,296
Arkansas.....	26	52	35	53	179	595	5,666
California.....	24	14	32	322	1,604	7,141	8,401
Connecticut.....	5	1	1	14	1,123	4,664	5,666
Delaware.....	3	1	1		5	21	86
District of Columbia.....	4	23	9	126	1,216	1,616	557
Florida.....	6	14	2	10	484	1,547	1,581
Georgia.....	25	10	27	27	95	617	3,256
Idaho.....			88	270	922	2,783	
Illinois.....	55	60	73	3,251	14,805	29,156	30,330
Indiana.....	41	31	18	44	1,714		15,139
Iowa.....	3	1	10	30	644	3,960	5,070
Kansas.....	11	22	17	45	1,130	8,582	16,960
Kentucky.....	44	41	45	75	170	178	1,585
Louisiana.....	13	32	52	27	123	763	1,901
Maine.....	2	7	1	4		387	936
Maryland.....							24,935
Massachusetts.....	31	41	40	51		3,730	9,731
Michigan.....							14,201
Minnesota.....						5,775	11,397
Missouri.....						4,043	5,359
Montana.....	3	2		1	67	1,022	1,847
Nebraska.....	1		2	1	154	1,815	3,998
New Hampshire.....							610
New Jersey.....	28	22	23	98	753	7,365	9,603
New Mexico.....	3	2	8	4	61	260	1,576
New York (exclusive of New York City).....	36	52	31	61	555	4,755	11,616
New York City.....	58	42	100	384	5,690	30,456	21,674
North Carolina.....						3,356	12,892
North Dakota.....							3,826
Oregon.....							1,042
Pennsylvania.....							16,090
South Carolina.....						1,661	
South Dakota.....	1			3	118		24,004
Tennessee.....							2,331
Texas.....							11,265
Vermont.....	1				25	89	272
Virginia.....						3,097	6,318
Washington.....	1				12	902	6,451
West Virginia.....						1,667	4,732
Wisconsin.....	3	6	3	67	1,944	6,739	14,328
Wyoming.....						1,372	
Total.....	433	476	618	4,971	33,601	140,317	265,528
Number of States reporting.....	25	20	22	22	24	31	38

¹ Five days only.

² Week ended Friday.

³ Six days only.

In Table II are given the number of deaths from influenza and pneumonia (all forms) by weeks in January and February to date, as reported in the Weekly Health Index of the Bureau of the Census.

TABLE II.—Deaths from influenza and pneumonia (all forms) in certain large cities, by weeks, in January and February, 1920.

City.	Week ended—					
	Jan. 3.	Jan. 10.	Jan. 17.	Jan. 24.	Jan. 31.	Feb. 7.
Albany, N. Y.	6	3	2	3	14	19
Atlanta, Ga.	16	117	110	110	15	32
Baltimore, Md.	30	20	35	24	59	122
Birmingham, Ala.	11	111	18	16	14	22
Boston, Mass.	24	28	28	45	85	158
Buffalo, N. Y.	13	10	7	19	17	67
Cambridge, Mass.	4	8	7	8	14	22
Chicago, Ill.	98	107	153	472	1,109	1,005
Cincinnati, Ohio.	18	14	12	17	25	38
Cleveland, Ohio.	28	21	25	26	41	158
Columbus, Ohio.	5	15	9	8	22	59
Dayton, Ohio.	7	4	7	13	46	47
Denver, Colo.	15	21	18	24	49	159
Fall River, Mass.	3	7	10	5	3	5
Grand Rapids, Mich.	3	1	4	2	6	(²)
Indianapolis, Ind.	3	18	16	21	36	(²)
Jersey City, N. J.	12	14	14	24	64	(²)
Kansas City, Mo.	12	13	29	96	120	220
Los Angeles, Calif.	18	16	18	19	22	20
Louisville, Ky.	9	10	10	9	18	40
Lowell, Mass.	3	5	4	2	7	12
Memphis, Tenn.	15	12	12	11	10	22
Milwaukee, Wis.	15	25	13	45	141	134
Minneapolis, Minn.	20	12	10	9	63	³ 131
Nashville, Tenn.	4	6	11	6	12	8
Newark, N. J.	15	17	14	30	55	116
New Haven, Conn.	11	6	8	10	19	20
New Orleans, La.	18	27	27	27	32	36
New York, N. Y.	195	218	261	511	1,308	2,077
Oakland, Calif.	7	4	8	20	24	³ 38
Omaha, Nebr.	5	4	7	13	45	62
Philadelphia, Pa.	64	55	75	108	153	289
Pittsburgh, Pa.	55	47	53	55	76	168
Portland, Oreg.	14	13	18	19	15	(²)
Providence, R. I.	6	12	13	8	14	39
Richmond, Va.	6	2	9	6	21	35
Rochester, N. Y.	8	13	7	12	23	50
St. Louis, Mo.	47	57	41	73	236	401
St. Paul, Minn.	7	4	(²)	26	72	³ 56
San Francisco, Calif.	20	14	26	48	59	115
Seattle, Wash.	9	12	4	7	12	32
Spokane, Wash.	.....	4	3	3	12	³ 15
Syracuse, N. Y.	6	9	8	10	31	89
Toledo, Ohio.	8	9	8	9	18	54
Washington, D. C.	32	22	27	81	181	164
Worcester, Mass.	5	10	9	7	14	15

¹ Deaths from pneumonia (all forms) only.² No report.³ Deaths from influenza only.

In Table III is presented the annual mortality rate per 100,000 from influenza and pneumonia (all forms) by weeks in January and February to date for those cities in the Weekly Health Index for which population estimates are available. For convenience in comparison the "normal" annual rate from these causes in the corresponding weeks is also shown in Table III. The method by which this "normal" rate was found is explained in the footnotes to the table.

TABLE III.—*Annual death rate per 100,000 from influenza and pneumonia (all forms), by weeks ended Jan. 3 to Feb. 7, 1920, and for corresponding weeks of the median year in the period 1910–1916.*¹

City.	In median year of the period 1910–1916.						1920.					
	Weeks ended—						Weeks ended—					
	Jan. 3.	Jan. 10.	Jan. 17.	Jan. 24.	Jan. 31.	Feb. 7.	Jan. 3.	Jan. 10.	Jan. 17.	Jan. 24.	Jan. 31.	Feb. 7.
Albany, N. Y.	332	390	407	406	399	387	278	139	93	139	649	580
Atlanta, Ga.	240	230	225	228	239	253	² 155	² 439	² 258	² 258	388	827
Baltimore, Md.	339	360	368	367	358	345	233	156	272	187	459	949
Birmingham, Ala.	295	290	294	307	325	337	290	² 290	² 211	422	369	580
Boston, Mass.	290	299	300	300	298	296	159	186	186	299	564	1,049
Buffalo, N. Y.	212	212	211	212	214	216	143	110	77	209	187	738
Cambridge, Mass.	255	263	266	267	264	258	187	374	328	374	655	1,029
Chicago, Ill.	299	333	344	344	341	337	197	215	307	948	² 227	² 018
Cincinnati, Ohio.	232	246	258	266	271	275	224	175	150	212	312	474
Cleveland, Ohio.	180	176	174	173	173	174	180	135	161	167	264	1,017
Columbus, Ohio.	219	217	214	212	210	210	116	347	208	185	509	1,366
Dayton, Ohio.	228	261	268	270	269	265	279	160	279	519	1,836	1,876
Fall River, Mass.	250	279	307	344	394	435	122	284	406	203	122	203
Grand Rapids, Mich.	130	144	152	156	154	146	115	39	154	77	231	⁽³⁾
Indianapolis, Ind.	222	261	276	276	259	233	54	323	287	377	646	⁽³⁾
Jersey City, N. J.	286	293	296	295	292	289	196	229	229	393	1,047	⁽³⁾
Kansas City, Mo.	230	247	261	275	286	294	199	216	482	1,595	1,994	3,656
Los Angeles, Calif.	181	186	188	186	183	174	165	147	165	174	202	183
Louisville, Ky.	205	218	228	234	236	239	193	215	215	193	387	859
Lowell, Mass.	288	305	313	316	308	291	143	239	191	96	335	574
Memphis, Tenn.	312	323	330	330	327	322	505	404	404	371	337	741
Milwaukee, Wis.	169	176	181	185	187	189	172	287	² 1,299	517	1,621	1,541
Minneapolis, Minn.	184	204	220	228	228	220	272	163	136	122	857	¹ 1,781
Nashville, Tenn.	305	309	312	317	332	367	175	262	481	262	525	350
Newark, N. J.	259	271	276	274	261	243	182	207	170	365	669	1,411
New Haven, Conn.	370	424	438	440	432	402	370	202	269	337	640	673
New Orleans, La.	282	301	318	333	344	350	246	368	368	368	436	491
New York, N. Y.	256	260	265	270	276	282	195	218	261	510	1,308	2,076
Oakland, Calif.	186	181	174	165	153	143	170	97	195	487	584	⁴ 925
Omaha, Nebr.	262	267	272	281	295	305	145	116	262	376	1,362	1,793
Philadelphia, Pa.	265	279	286	291	290	289	189	163	222	320	453	856
Pittsburgh, Pa.	363	382	391	394	388	377	483	413	466	483	668	1,476
Providence, R. I.	246	271	290	301	309	314	119	237	257	158	277	771
Richmond, Va.	325	345	362	369	373	375	195	65	292	195	681	1,136
Rochester, N. Y.	199	218	225	225	218	206	158	256	138	236	453	984
St. Louis, Mo.	299	309	313	311	300	282	314	381	274	488	1,578	2,681
St. Paul, Minn.	154	160	163	162	159	154	142	⁽³⁾ 81	⁽³⁾ 526	526	1,457	¹ 1,133
San Francisco, Calif.	222	221	216	204	181	162	218	153	283	523	643	1,253
Syracuse, N. Y.	184	191	199	208	217	224	194	291	258	323	1,001	2,875
Toledo, Ohio.	140	156	176	192	202	209	159	180	159	180	358	1,074
Washington, D. C.	240	252	262	270	278	284	415	286	351	1,051	2,350	2,129
Worcester, Mass.	267	299	320	333	341	346	150	300	270	210	420	450

¹ The weekly rate for the median year in the period 1910–1916 is presented as a “normal” rate. It is of course only approximated, and was found by plotting the rate for the median year for each month (thus affording a rough “normal” seasonal curve) for each city, and then by reading from the curve the indicated median rate at the midpoint of each week.

² For pneumonia only.

³ No report.

⁴ For influenza only.

Table IV is based on Table III and shows the excess of the annual death rate from influenza and pneumonia (all forms), by weeks, in January and February to date, over the seasonal “normal” in the same cities.

TABLE IV.—*Excess of annual death rate per 100,000, from influenza and pneumonia (all forms), by weeks, Jan. 3 to Feb. 7, 1920, over that in corresponding week of median year (1910-1916) in certain large cities.*¹

City.	Week ended—					
	Jan. 3.	Jan. 10.	Jan. 17.	Jan. 24.	Jan. 31.	Feb. 7.
Albany, N. Y.	— 54	—251	—314	—267	250	493
Atlanta, Ga.	² — 85	² 208	² 33	² 30	149	574
Baltimore, Md.	—106	—204	— 96	—180	101	604
Birmingham, Ala.	— 5	² — 1	² — 83	115	44	243
Boston, Mass.	—131	—113	—114	— 1	266	753
Buffalo, N. Y.	— 69	—102	—134	— 3	— 27	522
Cambridge, Mass.	— 68	111	62	107	391	771
Chicago, Ill.	—102	—118	— 37	603	1,886	1,681
Cincinnati, Ohio.	— 8	— 71	—108	— 54	41	199
Cleveland, Ohio.	—	— 41	— 13	— 6	91	843
Columbus, Ohio.	—103	130	— 6	— 27	299	1,156
Dayton, Ohio.	51	—101	11	249	1,567	1,611
Fall River, Mass.	— 28	5	99	—141	—272	—232
Grand Rapids, Mich.	— 15	—105	2	— 79	77	(³)
Indianapolis, Ind.	—168	62	11	101	386	(³)
Jersey City, N. J.	— 90	— 64	— 67	98	755	(³)
Kansas City, Mo.	— 31	— 31	221	1,320	1,708	3,362
Los Angeles, Calif.	— 16	— 39	— 23	— 13	19	9
Louisville, Ky.	— 12	— 3	— 13	— 41	151	620
Lowell, Mass.	—145	— 66	—122	—220	27	283
Memphis, Tenn.	193	81	74	41	10	419
Milwaukee, Wis.	3	111	² 1,118	332	1,434	1,352
Minneapolis, Minn.	88	— 41	— 84	—106	629	⁴ 1,561
Nashville, Tenn.	—130	— 47	169	— 55	193	— 17
Newark, N. J.	— 77	— 64	—106	91	407	1,168
New Haven, Conn.	2	—222	—169	103	208	271
New Orleans, La.	— 36	67	50	278	92	141
New York, N. Y.	— 61	— 42	4	240	1,032	1,794
Oakland, Calif.	— 16	— 84	21	395	431	⁴ 782
Omaha, Nebr.	—117	—151	— 70	95	1,007	1,488
Philadelphia, Pa.	— 76	—116	— 64	29	163	567
Pittsburgh, Pa.	120	31	75	89	280	1,099
Providence, R. I.	—127	— 34	— 33	—143	— 32	457
Richmond, Va.	—130	—280	— 70	— 74	308	761
Rochester, N. Y.	— 41	38	— 87	11	235	778
St. Louis, Mo.	15	72	— 39	177	1,278	2,399
St. Paul, Minn.	— 12	— 79	(³)	364	1,298	⁴ 979
San Francisco, Calif.	— 4	— 67	67	319	462	1,091
Syracuse, N. Y.	10	100	59	115	784	2,651
Toledo, Ohio.	19	24	— 17	— 12	156	865
Washington, D. C.	175	34	89	781	2,072	1,845
Worcester, Mass.	—117	1	— 50	—123	79	104

¹ The weekly rates for the median year in the period (1910-1916) have been approximated by plotting the rate for the median year for each month (thus affording a rough "normal" seasonal curve) for each city, and then by reading from the curve the indicated median rate at the midpoint for each week. The excess has been found by subtracting this median rate from the actual rate for each week in 1920. When the difference is "minus" it is so indicated.

² For pneumonia only.

³ No report.

⁴ For influenza only.

In order to facilitate the comparison of the present epidemic in the cities included in the Weekly Health Index with the epidemic of 1918 for the same cities, the excess mortality rate from influenza and pneumonia (all forms) by weeks, from September 8 to November 30, 1918, is shown. These excess rates may be compared with those given in Table IV. It should be noted that the excess rates as computed in Tables IV and V are only approximated, but they are believed to be sufficiently accurate to afford a fair basis for determining the mortality from influenza and pneumonia (all forms) which properly may be attributed to epidemic conditions.

TABLE V.—*Excess of annual death rate per 100,000, from influenza and pneumonia (all forms), by weeks, Sept. 8 to Nov. 30, 1918, over that in corresponding week of median year (1910-1916) in certain large cities.¹*

City.	Sept. 14.	Sept. 21.	Sept. 28.	Oct. 5.	Oct. 12.	Oct. 19.	Oct. 26.	Nov. 2.	Nov. 9.	Nov. 16.	Nov. 23.	Nov. 30.
Albany, N. Y.	37	.....	31	29	2,018	5,025	8,535	7,087	2,300	800	41	488
Atlanta, Ga.	110	.....	15	82	666	1,972	2,471	849	633	499	402	643
Baltimore, Md.	-37	-50	43	794	4,253	10,419	8,194	2,915	953	189	53	65
Birmingham, Ala.	-23	-26	-33	322	1,493	2,770	3,369	2,095	1,061	1,056	990	1,694
Boston, Mass.	188	1,634	5,015	7,925	6,680	3,765	1,350	753	343	143	172	156
Buffalo, N. Y.	17	56	96	444	1,892	5,752	7,880	4,894	1,723	743	217	216
Cambridge, Mass.	253	109	4,829	6,461	5,285	2,845	867	759	1,882	262	248	140
Chicago, Ill.	-53	-50	79	728	1,988	4,105	4,620	2,801	1,316	600	305	223
Cincinnati, Ohio	-1	-21	-4	137	749	2,291	3,386	2,957	1,882	1,046	1,137	997
Cleveland, Ohio.	-26	-9	-2	44	177	928	2,818	4,282	3,256	2,132	1,403	1,113
Columbus, Ohio.	-28	40	83	170	579	1,613	2,623	2,084	1,057	721	860	1,315
Dayton, Ohio.	33	-9	23	132	1,155	5,248	5,352	4,463	2,535	688	45	359
Fall River, Mass.	.....	264	715	3,863	8,095	7,730	3,863	1,533	869	447	267	128
Grand Rapids, Mich.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,059	788	628	.....
Indianapolis, Ind.	-6	44	111	356	745	2,210	1,968	1,402	926	735	967	1,653
Jersey City, N. J.	-65	-2	242	973	3,666	.....	6,823	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Kansas City, Mo.	28	.....	103	47	1,521	2,713	3,117	3,173	2,177	1,198	921	1,461
Los Angeles, Calif.	26	-14	-42	70	576	1,144	2,625	3,435	2,759	2,664	1,688	1,405
Louisville, Ky.	20	143	26	228	1,889	3,764	3,770	1,348	1,098	678	584	1,159
Lowell, Mass.	-15	311	1,451	4,358	6,644	5,441	3,902	1,311	252	242	375	-73
Memphis, Tenn.	.....	.....	.....	2,624	6,042	5,479	2,254	.....	.....	392	402	-20
Milwaukee, Wis.	.....	-4	91	108	711	1,215	1,915	1,328	971	675	427	873
Minneapolis, Minn.	-19	.....	97	120	592	1,280	1,963	1,541	1,191	1,151	575	490
Nashville, Tenn.	21	.....	45	124	5,538	8,327	5,420	2,206	2,135	446	464	747
Newark, N. J.	.....	9	27	565	2,205	4,709	5,123	4,444	2,014	1,200	687	501
New Haven, Conn.	.....	-32	401	1,102	2,479	4,996	6,033	5,519	2,615	1,456	503	621
New Orleans, La.	-23	.....	-54	294	1,852	8,385	9,156	4,308	1,957	822	231	356
New York, N. Y.	-20	11	93	629	2,010	4,107	5,094	4,259	2,122	885	473	223
Oakland, Calif.	19	.....	-32	-9	354	936	3,271	5,679	3,728	1,603	811	164
Omaha, Nebr.	-53	.....	-26	121	1,887	4,547	4,164	2,618	.....	1,245	929	790
Philadelphia, Pa.	-3	31	157	2,014	7,716	13,515	8,841	3,448	986	1,350	154	106
Pittsburgh, Pa.	-18	14	146	430	805	3,197	4,816	5,269	6,726	4,369	3,070	2,283
Providence, R. I.	3	115	348	1,868	3,587	4,948	4,210	2,558	1,162	575	502	290
Richmond, Va.	66	31	57	1,246	4,149	6,275	4,025	2,166	760	586	243	577
Rochester, N. Y.	-42	-49	61	32	612	1,902	4,077	3,989	1,914	886	646	585
St. Louis, Mo.	15	17	57	82	478	1,135	1,436	1,581	1,378	1,358	1,089	1,374
St. Paul, Minn.	21	.....	12	-32	1,177	1,458	1,091	2,000	2,141	2,664	1,705	1,306
San Francisco, Calif.	-28	53	55	50	92	1,300	5,899	7,927	4,897	2,041	857	476
Syracuse, N. Y.	.....	.....	1,150	4,410	6,991	8,055	4,425	2,088	784	610	83	76
Toledo, Ohio.	-20	.....	30	-13	101	886	2,642	2,168	1,575	769	690	421
Washington, D. C.	68	52	373	2,174	6,257	7,989	4,955	2,240	584	394	312	364
Worcester, Mass.	141	438	2,955	5,891	6,813	4,702	2,465	1,662	.....	272	744	462

¹ The weekly rates for the median year in the period 1910-1916 have been approximated by plotting the rate for the median year for each month (thus affording a rough "normal" seasonal curve) for each city, and then by reading from the curve the indicated median rate at the midpoint for each week. The excess has been found by subtracting this median rate from the actual rate for each week in 1918. When the difference is "minus" it is so indicated.

BOTULISM.

PROTECTIVE MEASURES AND CAUTIONS FROM THE U. S. BUREAU OF CHEMISTRY, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

The Public Health Service, in common with other Federal, State, and municipal authorities charged with the enforcement of laws and regulations for the protection of the public health, has been deeply concerned because of the frequent reported fatalities in different sections of the country attributed to the consumption of food products infected with the organism known as *Bacillus botulinus*. These fatalities have quite recently been traced to the consumption of ripe olives, although some cases have also been traced to home-canned string beans, home-canned asparagus, and home-canned corn. In